CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

1.   A printer display, comprising:

a control system to monitor progress in processing a print job; and

a progress indicator to display progress information to indicate the progress in processing the print job.

2.   The display of claim 1, wherein the progress information that the progress indicator displays includes a page number currently being processed.

3.   The display of claim 1, wherein the progress indicator comprises a progress bar configured to move from zero to one hundred percent at a beginning and at an end of each page processed, respectively.

4.   The display of claim 1, wherein the progress indicator additionally comprises a progress bar configured to move from zero to one hundred percent at a beginning and at an end of the print job, respectively.

5.   The display of claim 1, wherein the control system is configured to monitor the progress by monitoring memory initially required for the print job and memory currently required for the print job.

6.   The display of claim 1, wherein the control system is configured to monitor the progress by measuring processing time required for completion of part of the print job and estimating remaining processing time for the print job.

10018635-1

7. The display of claim 1, wherein the progress indicator is configured to indicate estimated remaining processing time in mm:ss notation.

8. The display of claim 1, wherein the progress information comprises a virtual movie showing a printer processing a page of the print job from a time the printer initiates processing the page to a time when the printer completes processing the page.

9. The display of claim 1, wherein the progress indicator comprises a virtual page associated with a page of the print job.

10. The display of claim 9, wherein the virtual page is illuminated strip by strip, as each strips within an actual page within the print job are processed.

11. The display of claim 1, wherein the progress information comprises:
information on progress of a current page being processed; and
information on progress of the print job.

12. A printer, comprising:
a print unit;
a display panel;
a processor and associated memory operatively coupled to the print unit and the display panel, wherein the processor is configured to direct the display panel to display progress information indicative of progress of a print job from initiation to completion.

13.   The printer as recited in claim 12, wherein the processor is configured to generate the progress information using a technique selected from a group of techniques comprising:

determining a number of strips processed in view of a number of strips to be processed;

monitoring memory use to determine the progress information; and

estimating processing times to predict remaining time for the print job.

14.   The printer as recited in claim 12, additionally comprising:

a control system configured to monitor time passage from a time the printer initiates processing one or more images to a time when the printer completes processing the one or more images.

15.   The printer as recited in claim 14, wherein the control system is further configured to monitor a time the printer initiates processing a strip and a time the printer completes processing the strip.

16.   The printer as recited in claim 14, wherein the control system is further configured to monitor a time the printer initiates processing a page and a time the printer completes processing the page.

10018635-1

17. The printer as recited in claim 12, additionally comprising:

a progress indicator configured to display on the display panel a graphical representation showing processing progress of each page of a print job and processing progress of the print job in its entirety.

18. A printer progress display system, comprising:

a display panel;

a control system configured to track progress of printable images as the printable images are processed; and

a progress indicator configured to display a graphical representation of the progress on the display panel.

19. The system of claim 18, wherein the progress indicator is configured to provide a strip-by-strip graphical representation of printable images as the printable images are processed.

20. The system of claim 18, wherein the progress indicator is configured to display a page number corresponding to progress processing a print job.

21. The system of claim 18, wherein the progress indicator comprises a progress bar configured to move from zero to one hundred percent at a beginning and an end of each page processed, respectively.

22. The system of claim 18, wherein the graphical representation comprises a virtual movie configured to show a printer processing a page of a print job from a time the printer initiates processing the page to a time the printer completes processing the page.

10018635-1

23.   The system of claim 18, wherein the progress indicator comprises a thumbnail image located within the display panel.

24.   A method of printer progress display, comprising:

monitoring processing of strips on a page; and

displaying a graphical representation showing progress of the processing of the strips on the page.

25.   The method as recited in claim 24, wherein the displaying comprises displaying a progress bar that moves as each page is processed from an initial value at a page beginning to a final value at a page ending.

26.   The method as recited in claim 24, wherein the displaying comprises displaying a virtual movie showing a printer process a page of a print job from a time the printer initiates processing the page to a time when the printer completes processing the page.

27.   The method as recited in claim 24, wherein the displaying comprises displaying a thumbnail image of the page.

10018635-1

28. A processor-readable medium comprising processor-executable instructions for:

operating a progress indicator on a display panel of a printer;

obtaining data on a degree to which progress has been made on a print job; and

providing, on the progress indicator, a graphical representation indicative of the progress made on the print job.

29. The processor-readable medium as recited in claim 28, comprising further instructions for:

generating a thumbnail image within a portion of the display panel to provide an indication of what a page of the print job is going to look like.

30. A processor-readable medium comprising processor-executable instructions for:

monitoring processing of strips on a page; and

displaying a graphical representation showing progress of the processing of the strips on the page.

31. The processor-readable medium as recited in claim 30, comprising further instructions for:

displaying a progress bar that moves as each page is processed from an initial value at a page beginning to a final value at a page ending.

10018635-1

32. The processor-readable medium as recited in claim 30, comprising further instructions for:

    displaying a virtual movie showing a printer process a page of a print job from a time the printer initiates processing the page to a time when the printer completes processing the page.

33. The processor-readable medium as recited in claim 30, comprising further instructions for:

    displaying a thumbnail image of the page; and

    incrementally updating the thumbnail image as the page is processed.

34. A processor-readable medium comprising processor-executable instructions for:

    operating a printer display to display progress information indicative of progress in processing of a print job; and

    updating the display as the processing progresses toward completion of the print job.

35. The processor-readable medium as recited in claim 34, comprising further instructions for:

    including a page number currently being processed within the progress information.

36.   The processor-readable medium as recited in claim 34, comprising further instructions for:

incrementing a progress bar configured to move from zero to one hundred percent at a beginning and an end of each page processed, respectively.

37.   The processor-readable medium as recited in claim 34, comprising further instructions for:

displaying a virtual movie showing a printer processing a page of the print job from a time the printer initiates processing the page to a time when the printer completes processing the page.

38.   The processor-readable medium as recited in claim 34, comprising further instructions for:

displaying a thumbnail image associated with a page of the print job; and

incrementally altering the thumbnail image as the print job is processed.

10018635-1